tremendous ceremonial not once but three times in expiation of his mother's sin. As in the Soonair festival, every office in the rites, from that of scullion and porter, is performed by royalty. Perhaps the Aswamedha has never since been celebrated so royally as when the steed of sacrifice was liberated under the care of the undying hero Arjuna, and roamed for a year as a challenge of supremacy, until the sun had again entered the winter solstice, when all the Kings of India were summoned to witness the sacrifice. The great rival race of the Kurus burned with envy at this challenge of the Pandus, and this was the origin of the greatest war of the word's history, and the greatest book in the world which records it, the "Mahabharata."

Modern princes fight shy of a ceremony which has often been attended by such fatal results, and always by so much expense, and the last to perform it was Raja Jey Singh of Amber, that celebrated royal astronomer, who became the foremost authority in his

favourite
science both in Europe and Asia.

And I like to think of Aurungzeb, the
austere son of the greatest man of pleasure in
Asia, passing on Fridays from the Lahore Gate